

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 NIC-01 CU-04 RSR-01 AID-20

IGA-02 PC-04 INT-08 /142 W
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P 112052 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4291

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 2058

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, ELAB

SUBJ: TENIENTE STRIKE CONTINUES-- POSSIBILITY OF ANOTHER
BUS STRIKE

DEPT FOR ARA/ LA/ PCD O' GRADY PASS TO AIFLD VERDU

REF: SANTIAGO 2038

1. SUMMARY. GOC DECLARED O' HIGGINS PROVINCE (LOCATION OF TENIENTE)
ZONE OF EMERGENCY AFTERNOON MAY 10. CHUQUICAMATA MINERS STRUCK
EARLY HOURS MAY 11. URBAN BUS OWNERS UNION VALPARAISO AND
DRIVERS UNION (GOC OPERATED) ETCE LINES IN CONCEPCION ON STRIKE
MAY 10. INDEPENDENT AND OPPOSITION PRESS REPORT POSSIBILITY NATIONAL
STRIKE OF BUS OWNERS IN NEXT " THREE OR FOUR DAYS". END SUMMARY.

2. GOC OBLIQUELY ADMITTED EXISTENCE OF TENIENTE STRIKE FOR FIRST
TIME ON 23 RD DAY OF STOPPAGE, WITH DECLARATION O' HIGGINS PROVINCE
AS ZONE OF EMERGENCY AND STATEMENT THAT ACTION " DUE TO THE
PARTIAL PARALYSIS... OF A SECTOR OF TENIENTE WORKERS." NAMED
COL CRISTIAN ACKERNET AS CHIEF OF EMERGENCY ZONE.

3. REPORT FROM ONE OF TENIENTE UNION LEADERS
EVENING MAY 10 INDICATED SITUATION CALM BUT TENSE WITH STILL
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ONLY 10 TO 15 PERCENT FORCE WORKING THAT DAY. HE INDICATED NO NEW APPROACHES FOR SETTLEMENT FROM GOC BUT THAT SOME MOVEMENT ON PART OF GOC EXPECTED MAY 11.

4. PRESS MORNING MAY 11 CARRIED SEVERAL REPORTS THAT CHUQUICAMATA MINERS STRUCK 7 A. M. IN SUPPORT TENIENTE. THE REPORTS WERE CONFIRMED IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION DIRECTOR (POLITICALLY INDEPENDENT) LARGE CHUQUI EMPLOYEES UNION WITH RELIABLE SOURCE IN SANTIAGO. ACCORDING THIS LEADER, ABOUT 800 MEMBERS TWO LARGEST CHUQUI UNIONS (TOTAL MEMBERSHIP ABOUT 9000) HELD JOINT MEETING EVENING APR 10, VOTED UNANIMOUSLY STRIKE FOR 48 HOURS "SUPPORT OF TENIENTE BROTHERS AND TO RESOLVE LOCAL PROBLEMS". HE INDICATED OLD ISSUE OF FOOD SHORTAGES WAS MOST CRITICAL OF THESE GRIEVANCES. SAID STRIKE MOTION DEMANDED SOLUTION BOTH LOCAL ISSUES AND TENIENTE SITUATION AND THAT MASS MEETING SCHEDULED EVENING MAY 12 TO DECIDE FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION. DESCRIBED CHUQUI STRIKE AS TOTAL AS OF 8 A. M. MAY 11.

5. VALPARAISO BUS OWNERS UNION STAGED WILDCAT STOPPAGE SERVICES AFTERNOON MAY 10 PROTEST GOC REFUSAL PERMISSION 12 BUSES TRAVEL TO SANTIAGO TO ATTEND MEETING OF NATIONAL UNION (CONFEDERACION NACIONAL DE AUTOBUSES Y TAXIBUSES). OWNER DRIVERS REPORTEDLY PARKED BUSES MIDDLE OF TRAFFIC ROUTES, LOCKED AND ABANDONED VEHICLES, CAUSING SERIOUS COMMUTER AND TRAFFIC PROBLEMS. PRESS REPORTS CLAIM PRESIDENT PROVINCIAL UNION AND SEVERAL OTHER LEADERS ARRESTED AND QUOTED ONE LEADER NOT ARRESTED AS SAYING STRIKE COULD CONTINUE INDEFINITELY. SAME PRESS REPORTS SAY SANTIAGO MEETING OF NATIONAL UNION DECIDED TO STAGE NATIONAL STRIKE WITHIN "NEXT THREE OR FOUR DAYS" IF SOLUTION INCREASE IN FARES AND REPLACEMENT PARTS PROBLEMS NOT OFFERED BY GOC. REPORTS WERE NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS ACTION OFFICIALLY TAKEN AT MEETING OR JUST ESTIMATE OF UNION'S LEADERSHIP.

6. UNION OF DRIVERS CONCEPCION ETCE BUSES VOTED EVENING MAY 10 TO STRIKE FOLLOWING MORNING OVER UNSAFE CONDITION VEHICLES AND OTHER LOCAL ISSUES.
DAVIS

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